

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS QUEBEC 0362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: FORMER QUEBEC TRANSPORT MINISTER MAILLOUX BLASTS
FEDERAL LIBERALS.

1. IN A LE SOLEIL INTERVIEW ENTITLED "THE CARROTS ARE COOKED FOR THE FEDERAL LIBERALS ", FORMER QUEBEC TRANSPORT MINISTER AND REELECTED LIBERAL DEPUTY RAYMOND MAILLOUX ANNOUNCED HIS FIRM OPPOSITION TO ANY INVOLVEMENT OF FEDERAL POLITICIANS IN QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY AFFAIRS. HE PARTICULARLY WARNED ANDRE OUELLET TO STAY OUT OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY. MAILLOUX EXPRESSED WISH THAT TRUDEAU BE CALM AS HE HAS ALREADY BEEN "UNNERVING ENOUGH." THE FORMER MINISTER OPINED THAT FEDERAL LIBERALS HAD ALREADY CAUSED ENOUGH PROBLEMS FOR PROVINCIAL LIBERALS WITH GOC'S CENTRALIZATION POLICIES. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE CARROTS ARE ALREADY COOKED FOR THE FEDERAL LIBERALS WHO WILL CARRY NO MORE THAN 35 OF QUEBEC'S 74 SEATS IN THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION. (THEY WON 60 IN 1974.)

2. ANALYZING THE NOVEMBER 15 ELECTION, MAILLOUX STATED THAT HE HAD EXPECTED A LARGE LIBERAL LOSS OF SEATS BUT NOT TO EXTENT OF LOSING CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT IT WAS BECOMING VERY DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS ON ISSUES IN QUEBEC WITHOUT INFLAMING PASSIONS ON ALL SIDES. HE FORESEES 2 YEARS
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OF POWER FOR THE PARTI QUEBECOIS AND THEN A SCISSION AFTER THE

REFERENDUM AS THE PQ'S LEFT-WING BECOMES MORE ACTIVE.

3. COMMENT: COMING FROM A POLITICIAN GENERALLY KNOWN AS VERY RESERVED AND AS A MAN WHO WEIGHS EVERY WORD, MAILLOUX'S REMARKS CONSTITUTE STRONG, CLEAR WARNING TO FEDERAL LIBERALS. MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES ARE ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE NO SOFT SPOT IN THEIR HEARTS FOR OTTAWA LIBERALS. SOME PROVINCIAL OBSERVERS HAVE SPECULATED THAT FEDERAL LIBERALS WILL LOSE SOME OF THE SEATS WHICH THEY NOW HOLD IN THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION. HOWEVER, THEIR ESTIMATES ON LOSSES RUN FROM 10-15 RATHER THAN THE 25 PLUS MAILLOUX PROJECTS.

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